IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 1167

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Art Unit: 1637

V I.

In re application of:

Robert W. Blakesley

Appl. No. 09/883,183

Filed: June 19, 2001

Methods for Preventing Inhibition For:

of Nucleic Acid Synthesis by

Pyrophosphate

Atty. Docket: 0942.4150002/RWE

Petition For Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop AF

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for replying to the outstanding Office Action be extended three months from March 18, 2003, to June 18, 2003, by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$930.00 for a three-month extension for a large entity. Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted.

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

06/18/2003 CNGUYEN 00000113 09883183

02 FC:1253

930.00 OP

Robert W. Esmond Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 32,893

Date: June 17, 2003

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SKGF Rev. 2/4/02 mac; 4/18/03 svb